2: Caroe S-4 (no date) 1953 RL1 Soviet Central Asia RL1

As might be expected, cotton and silk production is the peculiar pride of Turkistan. The Farghana Valley, we know, has the ideal climate and the water both for cotton cultivation, and for the growth of mulberry-trees[1] for the silk-worm. The same is true of the other southern oases, watered by the Chirchik (Tashkent), Zarafshan and Kashka Darya, and also of the Vakhsh river irrigation in Tajikistan. In the early years cotton cultivation was in danger of becoming a monoculture, and more than once brought the country into terrible famine conditions. The figures of the fourth Five-Year Plan, if reliable, suggest that, even in Uzbekistan, there has now been a considerable reversion from commercial cropping to grain, and, if so, the rural economy is not so brittle as many have supposed. The great Soviet achievement has been to bring the mills into Turkistan and process the crops locally. The largest cotton-processing establishment is the Stalin Textile Combine and Institute at Tashkent, while for silk there is a combine at Margilan, said to be the largest in the world, and integrating all processes from the unwinding of the cocoon to the weaving of the final material. Woven silk is in great demand for parachutes.

IRRIGATION

The aim to free Russia from all dependence on foreign cotton and then to build heavy stock-piles is bound up with the Soviet policy of irrigation. Irrigation in its turn is linked both with waterways and (more important) with the production of hydro-electric power. In some respects, on the face of them, the Soviet plans for development under these heads are more imaginative even than the metallurgical projects realized in the Urals before the War. For the claim is that they will turn a great desert into a smiling countryside, and even divert waters destined by nature for the Arctic into the Turanian basin. But the science of the irrigation engineer

[1] *Morus alba*, known locally by the Persian word *tut*.

have for centuries been in close contact with Iranian tribes.

Between the customs and mode of life of these two peoples there are many interesting distinctions. To neither of them does the soil afford the conditions necessary for permanent settlement. Wherever there is a well or a water-hole which provides the moisture necessary to vegetation, they pitch their tents at will, and allow their herds to graze. When the pastures are exhausted, the camp is transferred to a favourable spot elsewhere, and the same process is repeated. Where the soil is suitable, the nomads of Turkestan grow grain and other food-plants, without, however, becoming permanently settled. Only in the oases have the Turkomans abandoned the nomad form of life, and have become domiciled.

The two nomad peoples of Turkestan, the Turkomans and the Kirghiz, breed livestock — horses for riding, sheep for food and for their skins, and camels as beasts of burden. In addition to the horse the Turkomans also breed donkeys for riding. The different domestic animals kept by the two tribes explains another characteristic distinction between their otherwise very similar habits. Both are skilled in the preparation of a beverage of sour milk, which is particularly refreshing at the time of the burning summer heat. The Turkomans make yogurt of sheep's milk, whilst the Kirghiz ferment a similar drink known as kumyss from mare's milk. The reason for this is that the Turkomans, who

* [The Kara Kirghiz and the Turkoman - Analyst]

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231 It would be impossible to pass over another branch of Vernyy production, one which is very rare in Central Asia, namely, apiculture. (1)

1. In addition to Vernyy, apiculture is carried on in the Lepsinskaya station.

The raising of bees began here in 1857. In 1859 there were 254 hives, and in 1871 there were 75 apiaries and up to 1,456 hives. One should mention, furthermore, that 1869 and 1870 were bad years for apiculture because of drought, which dried the flowers in the grass, and the trees, so that the bees had no food.

After agriculture the main branch of Vernyy production is livestock raising. In 1871 Vernyy had the following number of animals:

Horses	3,611 head
Horned cattle	2,266
Sheep	729
Pigs	449
Goats	126
Camels	88
Total	7,369

/426/ In 1862 there were only 4,460 animals.

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438 One may mention distilling, vodka making, leather and brick making among the large factory enterprises. The remaining industries are in the form of home industries.

The factories in 1871 were:

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rigated farming, with intensive crops adapted to land irrigation (mainly cotton); (2) dry farming, including chiefly grain crops on mountain slopes having sufficient rainfall; (3) lowland livestock raising, including sheep and camels, adapted to the dry steppe and the desert; (4) highland livestock raising of cattle, goats, and sheep, adapted to valley pastures. Of all these activities, irrigated farming is by far the most important; it employs the greater portion of the population and covers more than two thirds of the sown area. The main crop in the irrigated area is cotton, remarkably well suited to the fertile loess soil of the lower valleys and the warm, sunny climate of Central Asia. The chief cotton areas are the Fergana Valley, the oases of Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara, and the Vakhsh valley. The cotton is processed in local ginning plants, the seeds are sent to oil-extracting presses, and the husks are used for fodder. Other irrigated crops are rice, alfalfa, wheat, corn, sesame, and melons. The irrigated fields are generally bordered by mulberry trees, on which the silkworm is cultivated. One of the most common fruit-trees is the apricot; widespread orchards also produce peaches, apples, pears, pomegranates, grapes. Dried fruits (apricots, peaches, and raisins) form important articles of export. Grain crops occupy a very small portion of the irrigated area and are grown mainly on the non-irrigated mountain slopes.

Livestock is raised all year round, generally in the high mountain valleys in the summer and the lowland steppe and desert in the winter. The most important herds are sheep (including the karakul sheep), camels, cattle, horses, and mountain goats and yak.

Beside the mining industry developed at the deposits of petroleum, coal, salt, sulphur, and nonferrous metals, the industry is concentrated in the region of Tashkent, where it is supplied with power by the two large hydroelectric installations, the Chirchik and the Farkhad power plants. Tashkent is the center of the heavy metallurgy, textile, machine-construction, and food industries. Plants which process agricultural products are located in many other parts of Central Asia; they include ginning plants, oil presses, tanneries, fruit canneries, sugar refineries, and cotton and silk mills.

The basic transportation route is the Trans-Caspian Railroad, which sends many branches into the chief economic regions of Central Asia: the spur from Mary to Kushka, on the Afghan border, and the branches from Chardzhou to Kungrad (now under construction), from Kagan to Termez and Stalinabad, and from Ursat'yevskaya to Andizhan–Ko-
Kand-Namangan.